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Message Text

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42
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 AGR-20 SS-15 AID-20

IGA-02 H-03 /148 W
---------- 009995
R 200952Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4946
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
DEA HQS
CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11167

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS SNAR TH,BM.
SUBJECT: CAPTURE OF LO SHING-HAN

1. THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE BANGKOK WORLD ON JULY 19 UNDER CAPTION: "STUNNING CAPTURE OF LO"

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE ARREST OF DRUGS WARLORD LO HSING-HAN YERTERDAY IN MAE HONG SON IS A STUNNING COUP FOR THE BORDER POLICE AND AMERICAN NARCOTICS SGENTS. LIKE THE DONS OF THE MAFIA, LO AND HIS BREEED HAVE SURVIVED ON TERROR AND INTIMIDATION, OPERATING BEHIND A CLOAK OF SECRECY. ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN LONG IDENTIFIED, HIS WILL O'TH WISP ACTIVITIES HAVE CONTINUED ALMOST UNHINDERED: ACTIVTIES WHICH THRIVE ON HUMAN WEAKNESS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT SHAME TO HIS FAMILY, TO HIS VILLAGE AND TO BURMA HIS COUNTRY.

3. ANSWERABLE TO NO ONE, CONTEMPTUOUS OF BELEAGUERED BURMESE ANY UNITS AND GRAFT-RIDEEN POLIC FORCES THEIS 38
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YEAR-OLD BURMA-BORN CHINESE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY LATTER-DAY

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EXAMPLE OF THE TUCHUNS OF"WARLORDS"WHOSE PROVATE ARMIES
TERRORISED VAST AREAS OF CHINA EARLIER THIS CENTURY. LO
HAS COLLECTED TEXES, ORDERED EXECUTIONS DIRECTED PUNITIVE
MILITAR ACTIONS,AND IN GNERALLY FRIENDLY ALLIANCE WITH
THE DISTRICT'S TWO OR THREE LESSER WARLORIDS AND SOMETIMES
EVEN THE BURMESE ARMY ITSELF, HAS PRESIDED OVER THE HARVESTING
OF THE WORLD'S ANNUAL ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION.

4. OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THAILAND HAS PULLED OFF SOME
OF SOUTHEAST ASIA'S BIGGEST NARCOTICS HAULS OF RECENT
YEARS. THE CAPTURE OF LO IS THE CULMINATION F THE HARD
WORK BY OUR ONW POLICE HELPED BYTHE AGENTS OF THE AMERICAN
BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS. EIGHTEEN MONTHS
AGO SUCH AN ARREST WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE: IT IS
A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE SHIFT IN POLICY BY OUR OWN
POLICE DEPARTMENT.

5. PINNING CHARGES AGAINST LO WILL BE FIFFICULT. IT IS
IRONIC THAT AT THIS STAGE THE ONLY JUSTIFICAION FOR HIS
DETENTION IS ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY. BUT LO HAS
MADE HIS FATAL MISTAKE IN ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE CAUGHT.
IN TIME. OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS KIND WILL BE BROUGHT TO
JUSTICE AND THE SCOURGE OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION THROUGHOUT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL BE ELIMINATED.
ONLY TOTAL SUCCESS WILL SATISFY THE ANTI-NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE AREA, BUT IS IS A GOAL
THAT IS GRADUALLY DRAWING NEARER. END TEXT.
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